

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A gearshift operating device for a contact-mesh type transmission driving a shift selection shaft in a first direction and a second direction that is different from said first direction to perform gear joining and dejoining operations and gear selection, respectively, wherein:

    said gear joining and dejoining operations and gear selection are performed by operating an actuator to drive said shift selection shaft in said first direction simultaneously guiding said shift selection shaft in said second direction, thereby driving said ~~shift~~ selection shaft in said first direction and simultaneously driving it in said second direction.

2. (previously presented) A gearshift operating device according to Claim 1, wherein said first direction is a direction along the axis of said shift selection shaft and said second direction is a rotational direction around said shift selection shaft.

3. (previously presented) A gearshift operating device according to Claim 1, wherein said actuator comprises a motor for driving said shift selection shaft in said first direction and a guide mechanism for converting motion of said shift selection shaft in said first direction to motion in said second direction, wherein said shift selection shaft is driven by said motor in said first and second directions.

4. (previously presented) A gearshift operating device for a normally contact-mesh type transmission comprising a shift finger selectively engaged with or disengaged from shift fork shafts of said normally contact-mesh type transmission, a shift selection shaft including said shift finger, at least one electrically controllable driving means for driving said shift selection shaft in a gear shift direction parallel with said shift fork shafts, at least one electrically controllable driving means for driving said shift selection shaft in a gear selection direction perpendicular to said shift fork shafts, a follower formed integrally with said shift selection shaft, and a guide slit engaged by said follower to guide the movement of said shift selection shaft, wherein:

    said guide slit has a plurality of parallel slit parts parallel with said shift fork shafts and a plurality of slant slit parts converging as to come to a point at a neutral position from said plurality of parallel parts.

5. (previously presented) A gearshift operating device for a normally contact-mesh type transmission comprising a shift finger selectively engaged with or disengaged from shift fork shafts of said normally contact-mesh type transmission, a shift selection shaft including said shift finger, at least one electrically controllable driving means for driving said shift selection shaft in a gear shift direction parallel with said shift fork shafts, at least one electrically controllable driving means for pressing said shift selection shaft in a gear selection direction perpendicular to said shift fork shafts, a follower formed integrally with said shift selection shaft, and a guide slit engaged by said follower to guide the movement of said shift selection shaft, wherein:

said guide slit has a plurality of parallel slit parts parallel with said shift fork shafts and a plurality of slant slit parts converging so as to come to a point at a neutral position from said plurality of parallel parts.

6. (previously presented) A gearshift operating device for a normally contact-mesh type transmission comprising a shift finger engaged with or disengaged from shift fork shafts of said normally contact-mesh type transmission, a shift selection shaft including said shift finger, at least one electrically controllable driving means for operating said shift selection shaft a gear shift direction parallel with said shift fork shafts, a follower formed integrally with said shift selection shaft, and a guide slit engaged by said follower to guide the movement of said shift selection shaft, wherein:

    said guide slit has a plurality of parallel slit parts parallel with said shift fork shafts and a plurality of slant slit parts converging so as to come to a point at a neutral position from said plurality of parallel parts, each slant slit part arranged in said guide slit having an electrically switched gate.

7. (previously presented) A gearshift operating device according to any one of Claims 4 to 6, wherein said parallel slit parts of said guide slit and said slant slit parts of said guide slit are smooth curved slits continuously connected.

8. (original) A gearshift operating device according to any one of Claims 4 to 6, wherein said follower has a curved section.

9. (original) A gearshift operating device according to any one of Claims 4 to 6, wherein said follower has a roller.

10. (previously presented) A gearshift operating device according to any one of Claims 4 to 6, wherein clearance of the engagement between said shift finger and said shift fork shafts is almost equal to or wider than the width of said shift finger.

11. (original) A gearshift operating device according to any one of Claims 4 to 6, wherein the width of said follower has some clearance for the width of said guide slit.

12. (new) A gear shift operating device, for a contact-mesh type transmission, that selects a gear by the engagement of a shift fork shaft and a shift finger, comprising,

a motor adapted to move the shift finger in a shift direction, and a guide slit, in the case of shifting from one gear to another gear, that can provide a force in a selection direction perpendicular to the shift direction to guide the shift finger because of a force of the motor in the shift direction, and that guides the movement of the shift finger toward a neutral position, said neutral position having one point,

wherein in the case of shifting, shifting is completed by movement of the shift finger from a position of the shift fork shaft corresponding to one gear to that of the shift fork shaft corresponding to another gear via the neutral position.

13. (new) The gear shift operating device according to Claim 12, wherein the guide slit includes a plurality of slant parts connected so as to come to one point at the neutral position.

14. (new) The gear shift operating device according to Claim 13, wherein the guide slit includes a plurality of parallel parts connected to the plurality of slant parts.

15. (new) The gear shift operating device according to Claim 12, wherein in the case of shifting from one gear to another gear, shifting is completed by the motor continuing to operate.

16. (new) The gear shift operating device according to Claim 12, wherein said neutral position has only one point.